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## PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECT

# SUCCESS STORY

## Development of Committee Promises Improved Primary Health Care in Najaf



Photo: USAID / PHCPI

The USAID Primary Health Care Project in Iraq (PHCPI) partners with the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen the delivery of primary health care services throughout the country. One way PHCPI aims to achieve this goal is by upgrading an agreed upon number of Primary Health Care Centers (PHCCs) to the status of Model Clinic (MC), which means “a clinic equipped with modern medical equipment, stocked with the needed drugs and medical supplies, staffed with well-trained providers who are in compliance with MOH clinical protocols and guidelines and efficiently functioning within a reliable health system.” These MCs will then be used as a guide for future replication throughout the Iraqi Provinces.

A five-day workshop with 15 participants was held from March 22-26, 2014. Attendees included the Director General (DG) of the Najaf Directorate of Health (DOH), the Deans of Nursing and Technical Health and Medical Sciences, the Assistant Faculty of Medicine for Scientific Affairs and the head of Community Medicine. Additionally, all other university teaching staff, health program managers and directors of targeted Primary Health Care (PHC) districts attended.

At the workshop, attendees discussed goals and achievements of PHCPI and the importance of MC replication throughout Najaf. The most important development was the establishment of the Multi-Lateral Primary Health Care Development Committee. The Committee will consist of four groups: USAID/PHCPI, the Najaf DOH, the Najaf faculty of Medicine and the Najaf faculty of Nursing and Medical Sciences. Additionally, copies of all clinical guidelines, updated by PHCPI, were provided to the University staff to be used for teaching undergraduate students. The guidelines will also be printed and made available as references throughout the University.

The Development Committee will play an integral role in the expansion and institutionalization of PHCPI Model Clinic concepts and clinic upgrades throughout the Najaf Province. The Committee will meet monthly to assess PHC quality and to recommend strategies for sustained improvement. After all of the current PHCPI-targeted clinics have been fully upgraded, the Committee will be in charge of the identification and upgrading of future target clinics.

Through the Multi-Lateral Primary Health Care Development Committee, the Najaf Province will be able to ensure continuous high-quality primary health care for those in the catchment areas of PHCPI-targeted clinics and the development and upgrade of future clinics. The Committee provides vital oversight and direction towards the accomplishment of USAID's PHCPI goal to improve quality of and access to PHC.



Photo: USAID / PHCPI